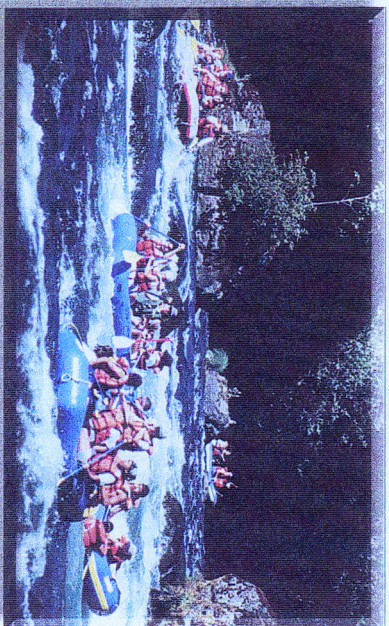


Inner City Youth Institute

In 1995, the Pacific Northwest Region African American Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM) met to discuss the shortage and retention rate of African Americans in natural resource science and management fields.

Despite the Region's strong recruitment and hiring efforts since 1992, it lost 44 percent of its African American students recruited through the 1890 Initiative in the Biological Science. The African American SEPM proposed the Inner City Youth Institute (ICYI) as a solution.



Why was ICYI created?

This program is an effort to increase the diversity of the Forest Service and its partners by focusing on the Pacific Northwest:

- Long-term strategy to increase diversity in natural resources.
- To provide natural resource opportunities for youth.
- Encourage youth to pursue higher education and careers in natural resources.

Goals of ICYI

The primary goal of ICYI is to encourage students to pursue higher education and careers in the natural resource and environmental fields.

To facilitate the effort, ICYI develops partnerships with institutions, government agencies, and private industries that have identified workforce diversity as an achievable goal.



ICYI Program Components

- Natural Resource Clubs
- Summer Program

Career related activities:

- Summer employment opportunities (Internships)
- Job Shadows

Natural Resource Clubs

ICYI clubs are located at participating middle and high schools. The clubs meet once a week with club coordinators. Curricula is correlated with the Department of Education's CIM & CAM contextual framework. Activities tie in easily with a teacher's science curricula and include field trip activities and service learning projects. The ICYI partners support the clubs by providing activities and speakers.

Summer Programs

There are two types of summer programs:

1. The middle school camp, offered every other year, brings seventh and eighth graders to Oregon State University (OSU) for a week of intensive education and exposure to a college environment. In the alternating year, ICYI will offer activities in day school format at one of the participating middle schools.

2. The high school camp is also offered every year at OSU. The camp provides intensive basic education and application to natural resource science and management.

For those approaching their senior year, other summer activities may include summer work, research opportunities or a chance to attend one or more college preparation classes.

